

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on September 21, 2021 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Joe Aulik, Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Ken Corry (by phone).

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Aulik at 4:36 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 17, 2021.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Invocation.

An invocation was given by Jim Haskins.

5. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Joe Aulik informed there have not been any changes to the Honor Rewards program recently. He mentions it to businesses when he talks to them and encourages them to sign up. He also uses the website for referrals for veterans looking for various services.

6. Discussion Regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair – Wrap Up.

Aulik said the event at the Fair turned out well and he has heard a lot of positive comments regarding the speaker. Ken Corry thought the event went very well and said it was attended by a decent amount of people. He appreciated the help given by the Veterans Service Office in making dog tags. Aulik noted one thing they will add for next year are "No Smoking" signs as several people lit cigarettes which made others angry.

Haskins apologized for not getting a Fair poster to any of the local TV stations. Aulik noted he e-mailed all the TV stations about the event and Channel 26 was there and WBAY also listed the event on their website. Koslowski suggested that we also ask the Fair Board to include information about the event in their advertising and marketing materials. Aulik noted he has asked Louise Dahlke why there is not anything on the website about Veterans Appreciation Day and she did not know why. He will put this on his list of things to follow up on. Corry suggested someone from this group attend one of the Fair's meetings to talk about this. Aulik said he will circle back to this next year.

Door prizes were also discussed. Corry felt the process took quite a long time and said there seemed to be enough prizes for every veteran and he suggested they just be given a prize when

they get there instead of calling numbers for so long. Aulik also suggested that tickets could be pulled prior to the event and then the veteran could just pick up the prize. The process will be looked at for next year's event to try to make it more streamlined. Joan Brusky noted that there were a lot of tickets called that nobody came forward for because they had already left. This is something this group can talk about in greater detail closer to next year's event.

Koslowski asked if thank you notes will be sent to people and businesses who donated prizes. Brusky said that Gail from the Veterans Service Office has already sent out some thank yous and Aulik will follow up with her on this. Koslowski also mentioned banners for the event and said that he has a number that are outdated as the times listed on them are no longer accurate. He suggested we give a heads up to Louise Dahlke to see what vendors would supply banners. In the past banners were provided by a beer vendor and some soda vendors.

Brusky felt the attendance at the event was markedly decreased, likely due to Covid. Aulik agreed and said they unloaded 200 chairs and they were mostly full. The biggest crowd was there for the speaker and door prize giveaways. Aulik noted they handed out over 250 certificates for caregivers of veterans and they also handed out all of the dog tags. Brusky would like to keep a running list of anyone who would like a dog tag and certificate.

A short discussion also occurred regarding what group of veterans to honor at next year's event. Aulik encouraged this group to think about this so we can decide on something next year.

7. Report from CVSO Joe Aulik.

Veterans Day activities were discussed. Aulik will send the list of events to Koslowski that his has from last year and then it can be tweaked and distributed. Koslowski noted that other members of this subcommittee have helped with the list of events and offers in the past and he hopes to get their help again this year. Brusky offered to do calling and Koslowski will send her information as to who he would like her to contact this year.

Aulik informed that the Veterans Day event that used to be held at the Arena and then moved to the Museum will be moving to the Resch Expo this year. The county wants to try to collaborate with the United Patriotic Society and be more in charge of the ceremony since it will be at the Resch Expo. He is working with the UPS and will continue to work on collaboration with Aulik's office taking more of a lead in that event. Aulik will be handing out free meal certificates for Texas Roadhouse and he hopes to be able to gather more offers like that. There will be a band as well as free coffee and donuts at the event. This event will be November 11.

Aulik informed he has talked to Jerry Polus is doing okay but asked to be removed from this subcommittee.

Aulik also informed that they are at \$3.2 million dollar in retroactive cash. The goal was \$3 million, but they would like to be at \$4 million by the end of the year.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Brusky, Corry, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Metoxen, Pierce).

-Brusky did not have anything to report.

-Corry informed the Vets Center is having a booyah bash on September 25. All are welcome to attend the event which runs from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm and will offer free booyah, brats, burgers and soda.

Corry also talked about the Gun Shop and Safe Storage Program which the Veterans Suicide Prevention Task Force is participating in. This initiative allows veterans who may be feeling suicidal to bring their weapons to local gun shops for safe keeping at a low cost. The participating shops in Green Bay are Virlee Gunworks, Nelson Tactical and the Family Shooting Academy and Corry would like some sort of certificate of recognition to be put together for those gun shops to recognize their participation in the program. Aulik asked Corry to send him information he has on the program and he will work on a recognition certificate.

-Haskins did not have anything to report.

-Koslowski said the Amvets group will be having a fundraiser on Saturday at Duck Creek Pub during the Badgers/Notre Dame game. There will be basket raffles starting at 11:00 am.

-Pierce informed the POW candlelight ceremony at the courthouse over the weekend. The event was covered by Channel 26 and was the top story on the news later in the evening. The event went well, but the attendance was a little smaller than usual. Pierce continued that the quarterly LZ event will be held at Pearly Gates on September 27. There will be deals on food as well as a number of nice raffle prizes. The event starts at 5:00 pm Pierce suggests getting there earlier to get a seat.

9. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.** None.

10. **Closing Remarks.**

Jim Haskins gave a closing invocation at this time.

11. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:35 pm. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Administrative Specialist